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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT : David Thomas Dudley, et al. EXAMINER : San Ming R Hui
SERIAL NO. : 09/868,120 ART UNIT : 1617
FILED : June 14, 2001 PAPER NO : 6
FOR : TREATMENT OF ARTHRITIS WITH MEK INHIBITORS

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Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(a)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated June 19, 2002 (Paper No. 5), the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

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Please add the following new paragraph on page 1, after the title and before line 3:

A 2

This application is a 371 application of PCT/US99/29783 filed December 15, 1999, which claims the benefit of priority to United States provisional Serial No. 60/164,651 filed November 10, 1999 and United States provisional application Serial No. 60/112,544 filed December 16, 1998.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace claims 6, 8, 14, 15, and 16 with the following amended claims:

6. (Once Amended) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the MEK inhibitor is a compound of Formula I

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